

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for initiating a collaboration between users, comprising:
receiving information pertaining to a call to a first user placed by a second user;
sending a notification of the call to a device associated with the first user;
receiving a response to the notification;
sending a notification of a collaboration request to a device associated with the second user based on the response; and
connecting the call based on a response to the collaboration request.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the information pertaining to the call comprises at least one of called number data, calling name data, and calling number data.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein sending a notification of the call comprises:
retrieving data corresponding to the first user using the information pertaining to the call;
selecting a device associated with the first user to receive the notification of the call based on the data corresponding to the first user; and
providing the notification of the call to the selected device for display on the selected device.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the notification of the call comprises a user-selectable collaboration option.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the notification of the call is displayed on the device associated with the first user.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein sending a notification of a collaboration request comprises:

providing the notification of the collaboration request to a device used to place the call for display on the device used to place the call, based on a determination that the response to the notification of the call indicates that a collaboration is requested.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein sending a notification of a collaboration request comprises:

retrieving data corresponding to the second user using the information pertaining to the call, based on a determination that the response to the notification of the call indicates that a collaboration is requested;

selecting a device associated with the second user to receive the notification of the collaboration request based on the data corresponding to the second user; and

providing the notification of the collaboration request to the selected device associated with the second user for display on the selected device associated with the

second user.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the notification of the collaboration request comprises user-selectable options for accepting and declining the collaboration request.

9. The method of claim 1, further comprising, prior to sending the notification of the collaboration request:

launching a collaboration between the first user and the second user from the perspective of the first user.

10. The method of claim 9, the connecting comprising:

launching the collaboration between the first user and the second user from the perspective of the second user, based on a determination that the second user accepts the collaboration request; and

connecting the call between the first user and second user.

11. The method of claim 9, the connecting comprising:

launching the collaboration between the first user and the second user from the perspective of the second user, based on a determination that the second user accepts the collaboration request, wherein the collaboration includes a data connection and a voice connection.

12. The method of claim 9, the connecting comprising:

launching the collaboration between the first user and the second user from the perspective of the second user, based on a determination that the second user accepts the collaboration request, wherein the collaboration includes a data connection and a videoconferencing connection.

13. The method of claim 9, the connecting comprising:

ceasing the collaboration launched from the perspective of the first user based on a determination that the second user declines the collaboration request; and
connecting the call to the first user between the first user and the second user.

14. A method for initiating a collaboration between users, comprising:

receiving information pertaining to a call to a first user placed by a second user;
sending a notification of the call to a device associated with the first user;
receiving a response to the notification;
sending a notification of a collaboration request to a device associated with the second user based on the response; and
initiating a collaboration between the first user and the second user based on a determination that the second user accepts the collaboration request.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein sending a notification of the call

comprises:

retrieving data corresponding to the first user using the information pertaining to the call;

selecting a device associated with the first user to receive the notification of the call based on the data corresponding to the first user; and

providing the notification of the call to the selected device for display on the selected device.

16. The method of claim 14, wherein the notification of the call comprises a user-selectable collaboration option.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the notification of the call is displayed on the device associated with the first user.

18. The method of claim 14, wherein sending a notification of a collaboration request comprises:

providing the notification of the collaboration request to a device used to place the call for display on the device used to place the call, based on a determination that the response to the notification of the call indicates that a collaboration is requested.

19. The method of claim 14, wherein sending a notification of a collaboration request comprises:

retrieving data corresponding to the second user using the information pertaining to the call, based on a determination that the response to the notification of the call indicates that a collaboration is requested;

selecting a device associated with the second user to receive the notification of the collaboration request based on the data corresponding to the second user; and

providing the notification of the collaboration request to the selected device associated with the second user for display on the selected device associated with the second user.

20. The method of claim 14, wherein the notification of the collaboration request comprises user-selectable options for accepting and declining the collaboration request.

21. The method of claim 14, wherein the collaboration includes a data connection and a voice connection.

22. The method of claim 14, wherein the collaboration includes a data connection and a videoconferencing connection.

23. The method of claim 14, comprising:
connecting the call to the first user between the first user and the second user.

24. An apparatus for initiating a collaboration between users, comprising:
means for receiving information pertaining to a call to a first user placed by a second user;
means for sending a notification of the call to a device associated with the first user;
means for receiving a response to the notification;
means for sending a notification of a collaboration request to a device associated with the second user based on the response; and
means for connecting the call based on a response to the collaboration request.

25. The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the information pertaining to the call comprises at least one of called number data, calling name data, and calling number data.

26. The apparatus of claim 24, the means for sending a notification of the call comprising:
means for retrieving data corresponding to the first user using the information pertaining to the call;
means for selecting a device associated with the first user to receive the notification of the call based on the data corresponding to the first user; and
means for providing the notification of the call to the selected device for display on the selected device.

27. The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the notification of the call comprises a user-selectable collaboration option.

28. The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the notification of the call is displayed on the device associated with the first user.

29. The apparatus of claim 24, the means for sending a notification of a collaboration request comprising:

means for providing the notification of the collaboration request to a device used to place the call for display on the device used to place the call, based on a determination that the response to the notification of the call indicates that a collaboration is requested.

30. The apparatus of claim 24, the means for sending a notification of a collaboration request comprising:

means for retrieving data corresponding to the second user using the information pertaining to the call, based on a determination that the response to the notification of the call indicates that a collaboration is requested;

means for selecting a device associated with the second user to receive the notification of the collaboration request based on the data corresponding to the second user; and

means for providing the notification of the collaboration request to the selected device associated with the second user for display on the selected device associated with the second user.

31. The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the notification of the collaboration request comprises user-selectable options for accepting and declining the collaboration request.

32. The apparatus of claim 24, further comprising:
means for launching a collaboration between the first user and the second user from the perspective of the first user.

33. The apparatus of claim 32, the means for connecting comprising:
means for launching the collaboration between the first user and the second user from the perspective of the second user, based on a determination that the second user accepts the collaboration request; and
means for connecting the call to the first user between the first user and second user.

34. The apparatus of claim 32, the means for connecting comprising:
means for launching the collaboration between the first user and the second user from the perspective of the second user, based on a determination that the second user

accepts the collaboration request, wherein the collaboration includes a data connection and a voice connection.

35. The apparatus of claim 32, the means for connecting comprising:
means for launching the collaboration between the first user and the second user from the perspective of the second user, based on a determination that the second user accepts the collaboration request, wherein the collaboration includes a data connection and a videoconferencing connection.

36. The apparatus of claim 32, the means for connecting comprising:
means for ceasing the collaboration launched from the perspective of the first user based on a determination that the second user declines the collaboration request;
and
means for connecting the call to the first user between the first user and the second user.

37. An apparatus for initiating a collaboration between users, comprising:
means for receiving information pertaining to a call to a first user placed by a second user;
means for sending a notification of the call to a device associated with the first user;
means for receiving a response to the notification;

means for sending a notification of a collaboration request to a device associated with the second user based on the response; and

means for initiating a collaboration between the first user and the second user based on a determination that the second user accepts the collaboration request.

38. The apparatus of claim 37, the means for sending a notification of the call comprising:

means for retrieving data corresponding to the first user using the information pertaining to the call;

means for selecting a device associated with the first user to receive the notification of the call based on the data corresponding to the first user; and

means for providing the notification of the call to the selected device for display on the selected device.

39. The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the notification of the call comprises a user-selectable collaboration option.

40. The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the notification of the call is displayed on the device associated with the first user.

41. The apparatus of claim 37, the means for sending a notification of a collaboration request comprising:

means for providing the notification of the collaboration request to a device used to place the call for display on the device used to place the call, based on a determination that the response to the notification of the call indicates that a collaboration is requested.

42. The apparatus of claim 37, the means for sending a notification of a collaboration request comprising:

means for retrieving data corresponding to the second user using the information pertaining to the call, based on a determination that the response to the notification of the call indicates that a collaboration is requested;

means for selecting a device associated with the second user to receive the notification of the collaboration request based on the data corresponding to the second user; and

means for providing the notification of the collaboration request to the selected device associated with the second user for display on the selected device associated with the second user.

43. The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the notification of the collaboration request comprises user-selectable options for accepting and declining the collaboration request.

44. The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the collaboration includes a data

connection and a voice connection.

45. The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the collaboration includes a data connection and a videoconferencing connection.

46. The apparatus of claim 37, comprising:
means for connecting the call to the first user between the first user and the second user.

47. An apparatus for initiating a collaboration between users, comprising:
a memory having a program that receives information pertaining to a call to a first user placed by a second user, sends a notification of the call to a device associated with the first user, receives a response to the notification, sends a notification of a collaboration request to a device associated with the second user based on the response, and connects the call based on a response to the collaboration request; and
a processor that runs the program.

48. An apparatus for initiating a collaboration between users, comprising:
a memory having a program that receives information pertaining to a call to a first user placed by a second user, sends a notification of the call to a device associated with the first user, receives a response to the notification, sends a notification of a collaboration request to a device associated with the second user based on the

response, and initiates a collaboration between the first user and the second user based on a determination that the second user accepts the collaboration request; and a processor that runs the program.

49. A computer-readable medium containing instructions for performing a method for initiating a collaboration between users, the method comprising:

receiving information pertaining to a call to a first user placed by a second user;

sending a notification of the call to a device associated with the first user;

receiving a response to the notification;

sending a notification of a collaboration request to a device associated with the second user based on the response; and

connecting the call based on a response to the collaboration request.

50. The computer-readable medium of claim 49, wherein the information pertaining to the call comprises at least one of called number data, calling name data, and calling number data.

51. The computer-readable medium of claim 49, wherein sending a notification of the call comprises:

retrieving data corresponding to the first user using the information pertaining to the call;

selecting a device associated with the first user to receive the notification of the

call based on the data corresponding to the first user; and

providing the notification of the call to the selected device for display on the selected device.

52. The computer-readable medium of claim 49, wherein the notification of the call comprises a user-selectable collaboration option.

53. The computer-readable medium of claim 52, wherein the notification of the call is displayed on the device associated with the first user.

54. The computer-readable medium of claim 49, wherein sending a notification of a collaboration request comprises:

providing the notification of the collaboration request to a device used to place the call for display on the device used to place the call, based on a determination that the response to the notification of the call indicates that a collaboration is requested.

55. The computer-readable medium of claim 49, wherein sending a notification of a collaboration request comprises:

retrieving data corresponding to the second user using the information pertaining to the call, based on a determination that the response to the notification of the call indicates that a collaboration is requested;

selecting a device associated with the second user to receive the notification of

the collaboration request based on the data corresponding to the second user; and
providing the notification of the collaboration request to the selected device
associated with the second user for display on the selected device associated with the
second user.

56. The computer-readable medium of claim 49, wherein the notification of
the collaboration request comprises user-selectable options for accepting and declining
the collaboration request.

57. The computer-readable medium of claim 49, further comprising, prior
to sending the notification of the collaboration request:

launching a collaboration between the first user and the second user from the
perspective of the first user.

58. The computer-readable medium of claim 57, the connecting
comprising:

launching the collaboration between the first user and the second user from the
perspective of the second user, based on a determination that the second user accepts
the collaboration request; and

connecting the call to the first user between the first user and second user.

59. The computer-readable medium of claim 57, the connecting

comprising:

launching the collaboration between the first user and the second user from the perspective of the second user, based on a determination that the second user accepts the collaboration request, wherein the collaboration includes a data connection and a voice connection.

60. The computer-readable medium of claim 57, the connecting comprising:

launching the collaboration between the first user and the second user from the perspective of the second user, based on a determination that the second user accepts the collaboration request, wherein the collaboration includes a data connection and a videoconferencing connection.

61. The computer-readable medium of claim 57, the connecting comprising:

ceasing the collaboration launched from the perspective of the first user based on a determination that the second user declines the collaboration request; and
connecting the call to the first user between the first user and the second user.

62. A computer-readable medium containing instructions for performing a method for initiating a collaboration between users, the method comprising:

receiving information pertaining to a call to a first user placed by a second user;

sending a notification of the call to a device associated with the first user;
receiving a response to the notification;
sending a notification of a collaboration request to a device associated with the second user based on the response; and
initiating a collaboration between the first user and the second user based on a determination that the second user accepts the collaboration request.

63. A method for initiating a collaboration between users, comprising:
receiving, at a device associated with a first user, notification of a call to the first user placed by a second user;
receiving input from the first user indicative of a response to the notification; and
sending, to a service center, response information reflective of the response to the notification, wherein the service center sends a notification of a collaboration request to a device associated with the second user based on the response information, and initiates a collaboration between the first user and the second user based on a determination that the second user accepts the collaboration request.

64. A method for initiating a collaboration between a first user and a second user, comprising:
receiving, from a service center, notification of a collaboration request at a device associated with the second user, wherein prior to the receiving the service center receives notification of a call to a first user placed by the second user, sends a

notification of the call to a device associated with the first user, receives a response to the notification of the call, and sends the notification of the collaboration request based on the response to the notification of the call;

receiving input from the second user indicative of a response to the notification of the collaboration request; and

sending, to the service center, response information reflective of the response to the notification of the collaboration request, wherein the service center initiates a collaboration between the first user and the second user based on a determination that the second user accepts the collaboration request.

65. A device for use in initiating a collaboration between users, comprising:

a memory having a program that: receives notification of a call to the first user placed by a second user; receives input from the first user indicative of a response to the notification; and sends, to a service center, response information reflective of the response to the notification, wherein the service center sends a notification of a collaboration request to a device associated with the second user based on the response information, and initiates a collaboration between the first user and the second user based on a determination that the second user accepts the collaboration request;

a user interface that displays the notification of the call; and

a processor that runs the program.

66. A device for use in initiating a collaboration between a first user and a second user, comprising:

a memory having a program that: receives, from a service center, notification of a collaboration request at a device associated with the second user, wherein prior to the receiving the service center receives notification of a call to a first user placed by the second user, sends a notification of the call to a device associated with the first user, receives a response to the notification of the call, and sends the notification of the collaboration request based on the response to the notification of the call; receives input from the second user indicative of a response to the notification of the collaboration request; and sends, to the service center, response information reflective of the response to the notification of the collaboration request, wherein the service center initiates a collaboration between the first user and the second user based on a determination that the second user accepts the collaboration request;

a user interface that displays the notification of the collaboration request; and
a processor that runs the program.

67. A system for initiating a collaboration between users, comprising:

a voice network;

a data network;

a device associated with a first user;

a device associated with a second user; and

a service center operable to receive information pertaining to a call to the first

user placed by the second user, send a notification of the call to the device associated with the first user, receive a response to the notification, send a notification of a collaboration request to the device associated with the second user based on the response, and initiate a collaboration between the first user and the second user based on a determination that the second user accepts the collaboration request.

68. An apparatus for initiating a collaboration between users, comprising:
an application server operable to receive information pertaining to a call to a first user placed by a second user;
a notification server operable to send a notification of the call to a device associated with the first user; and
a network access server operable to receive a response to the notification,
wherein
the notification server sends a notification of a collaboration request to a device associated with the second user based on the response, and
the application server initiates a collaboration between the first user and the second user based on a determination that the second user accepts the collaboration request.